

## I

### WHO STARTED IT?

The ultimate arbitrament—The diplomatist's status—The causes in the aims and ideals of the peoples—Europe's economic relation to the rest of the world—The economic cause—"Biological necessity"—England's position—Her complacency—The "German Wedge"—The German system—Modern efficiency methods—"A machine civil world"—The Kaiser's mission—A German the world over—Germany's plans and ambitions—Her war spirit—Activities in Italy—The Austrian situation—The Slav-Teuton racial hatred—France, a nation with a closed-in culture—The Kaiser's "peace"—The Germanic "isolation."

Who started it? Who is to blame? The courts decide the point when there is a quarrel between Smith and Jones; and it is the ethics of simple justice that no friend of Smith or Jones should act as judge. When the quarrel is between nations, the neutral world turns to the diplomatic correspondence which preceded the breaking-off of relations; and only one who is a neutral can hope to weigh impartially the evidence on both sides. For war is the highest degree of partisanship. Every one engaged is a special pleader.

I, too, have read the White and Blue and Yellow and Green Papers. Others have analysed them in detail; I shall not attempt it. One learned less from their dignified phraseology than from the human motives that he read between the lines. Each was aiming to make out the best case for its own side; aiming to put the heart of justice into the blows of its arms. Obviously, the diplomatist is an attorney for a client.